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AUTHOR	Korgen, Kathleen Odell
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ABSTRACT

This book describes the transformation in the racial self-identification of Americans who have both an African American and a white parent. Using data from extensive research and interviews, the book examines how the transformation has its roots in the historical and cultural transitions in U.S. society since the civil rights era. Chapter 1, "Biracial Americans: White, Black, Both, Neither," discusses the history and treatment of biracial people in the United States. Chapter 2, "'Black by Definition' or 'The Best of Both Worlds?'" presents case studies of three biracial people born before, during, and after the civil rights movement. Chapter 3, "The Transformation: From Black to Biracial," discusses the direction of this transformation in racial identity. Chapter 4, "Turning Points: Biracial College Students and Dating," explores how the transformation influences young biracial Americans' personal lives. Chapter 5, "Marginality and the Biracial American," discusses whether or not biracial Americans are marginalized. Chapter 6, "Identities and Transformation," describes a new theory of identity based on the works of symbolic interactionist and postmodern theories. Chapter 7, "Public Policy Implications," examines public policy implications of the transformation. An appendix presents notes on research methodology. (Contains 137 bibliographic references.) (SM)

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